

Lamoine School Board – Lamoine School Advisory Committee

Open Meeting Discussion – 28 January 2014

(Listing of participant contributions on chart paper; “notes” indicates the number of people who rated the item a “high priority”)

A. How can our parents and our school build a strong partnership to support each child’s education?

- [nine notes] – Help parents know how their child learns. Mentors for parents who need hope.
- [two notes] – Involve kids in their own education
- [one note] – Help parents know what kids are learning so they can help and reinforce
- [one note] – Invite parents to school to see great things that are happening
- Share Special Ed with Ellsworth
- Support and nurture informal relationships [e.g. chaperoning movie nights together]
- 1 evening per month “pride” night
- Follow the Golden Rule, be honest and trusting of each other
- Expand website classroom web pages – tech support for teachers and parents

B. What needs to be improved at our school?

- [six notes] – More nurse and guidance hours. What are their present schedules? Who covers for them when they are not here? Can they be accessed at a time when they are not in the building?
- [five notes] – More youth after-school programs. Basketball for non-team members. Drama. Foreign language – online. Music.
- [four notes] – Full-time Tech (computer/network) support
- [three notes] – More Phys. Ed. per week.
- [one note] – How are security measures?
- [one note] – More emotional health resources for students
- Strengthen/Develop aspiration and resilience programs
- Parking 2X

C. When you walk into the Lamoine School, how do you want it to feel?

- [three notes] – Welcome, encouraged to visit, personal connection ... I do find it now. Students –classes collaborating with each other. Small group instruction. Engaged students.
- Safe, secure, loved kids
- Warm, welcoming. Evidence of passion about learning. Intriguing hallways.
- Safe, structured with a home-like atmosphere ... comfortable
- Welcoming, safe
- Welcoming
- Exciting
- Kids wanting to share “their” school
- To know what kids are learning
- Welcome to everyone

D. What’s going well at our school?

- [one note] – Best Practice and a Professional Attitude.
- [one note] – I hear we have good guidance – though only 1 day/week – let’s be sure to keep that and expand if needed
- [one note] – Students feel recognized. Art work hung at Grand. Lion Pride recognition. Birthdays or “classroom happenings” announced over intercom in AM. Individual attention given to students by all staff.
- Students are enthusiastic about being here
- Great staff in all positions
- Chance to work with new school board
- Small classes equal individualized programming based on student needs
- Our kids are excited to see how well teachers get along and the pride week
- Student lead education
- Staff gets along so well. We help and care about each other. This support amongst teachers helps us be better ones.
- Great teachers
- The teachers are enthusiastic

E. How can we build stronger connections between our school and our community?

- [six notes] – Buy local foods. Or grow our own veggies. Let's get a greenhouse.
- [five notes] – Communication between School Board and Parents/Young people. And Selectmen.
- [three notes] – Create and publicize the actual value for \$ spent to the community, county, state
- [one note] – Develop mentorship program
- Local presenters from community
- Invite community members into our classrooms more often to share their knowledge and experience with teachers and students
- Continue "Community" unit in classroom (2nd Amy Dugan?) for kids to get to know their town – encourage parents to go on "tour field trip"
- Connection with Historical Society?
- Use the school for community groups
- Selectmen's Meetings – 1 time per month spot for school report from students "show & tell"

F. What are your thoughts and questions about the education of our high school students?

- [three notes] – We want to continue school choice. Families still need free school choice.
- [two notes] – The opportunity to change schools in mid HS career is a real plus for kids who get off on the wrong foot – searching for "the fit"
- [one note] – Are students interviewed about the Pros and Cons of the high school of their choice?
- [one note] –How are students informed about the high schools and what determines their ultimate choice? Parents decision? Athletic programs? Student's post high school educational opportunities?
- Transportation to both MDIHS and EHS.
- How can we make sure our kids get is top notch?
- Develop student's lifetime Ed needs. Maybe scholarship programs to support them.
- What is depth of IT training at both schools. Can all students attend Boggy Brook and have it interface with regular HS classes
- Like it or not, standards assessment will be the benchmarks for individuals and school success.